

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

ORDER NO. 1189

Amending Criminal Rule 5  
concerning initial  
appearances.

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Criminal Rules 5(d) and (e) are amended to read as follows:

**(d) Initial Determination of Probable Cause.**

(1) If the defendant was arrested without a warrant, the judicial officer at the first appearance shall determine whether the arrest was made with probable cause to believe that an offense had been committed and that the defendant had committed it. This determination shall be made from the complaint, from an affidavit or affidavits filed with the complaint, or from an oral statement under oath of the arresting officer or other person which is recorded by the judicial officer. The determination shall be noted in the file.

(2) If the defendant was arrested on a warrant for a failure to appear at a prior proceeding, the court shall determine from the file whether the defendant's initial arrest was pursuant to a warrant and, if not, whether at a prior proceeding the court made an initial determination of probable

cause as required by subparagraph (d)(1). If there has been no judicial determination of probable cause, the court shall proceed as under subparagraph (d)(1).

(3) If probable cause is not shown, the judicial officer shall discharge the defendant.

(e) **Felonies.**

(1) If the charge against the defendant is a felony, the defendant shall not be called upon to plead.

(2) The judicial officer shall inform the defendant of the right to a preliminary examination. A defendant is entitled to a preliminary examination if the defendant is charged with a felony for which the defendant has not been indicted, unless

(A) the defendant waives the preliminary examination, or

(B) an information has been filed against the defendant with the defendant's consent in the superior court.

(3) If the defendant after having had the opportunity to consult with counsel

waives preliminary examination, the judicial officer shall forthwith hold the defendant to answer in the superior court.

(4) If the defendant does not waive preliminary examination, the judicial officer shall schedule a preliminary examination. Such examination shall be held within a reasonable time, but in no event later than

(A) 10 days following the initial appearance, if the defendant is in custody, or

(B) 20 days following the initial appearance, if the defendant is not in custody.

With the consent of the defendant and upon a showing of good cause, taking into account the public interest in prompt disposition of criminal cases, the judicial officer may extend the time limits specified in this subsection one or more times. In the absence of consent by the defendant, the judicial officer may extend these time limits only upon a showing that extraordinary circumstances exist and that delay is indispensable to the interest of justice.

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(f) **Misdemeanors.**

(1) The judicial officer shall ask the defendant to enter a plea pursuant to Criminal Rule 11.

(2) If the defendant pleads not guilty, the court shall fix a date for trial at such time as will afford the defendant a reasonable opportunity to prepare.

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DATED: January 13, 1995

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 15, 1995

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Chief Justice Moore

\_\_\_\_\_  
Justice Rabinowitz

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Justice Matthews

\_\_\_\_\_  
Justice Compton

\_\_\_\_\_  
Justice Eastaugh